

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday July 2nd, 2023

Silent Key – Thomas Hurley EI0DD

We were just made aware of this week, and were saddened to hear, that Thomas Hurley EI0DD passed away on April 10th, 2021. He was a signaller and instructor in Irish Defence Forces as well as a long time IRTS member. Enlisted in 1957, he was posted to Depot Signal Corps in the Curragh and served on multiple missions in later years. Thomas was buried in uniform and laid to rest with military honours in Crookstown Cemetery, Co. Kildare. May he rest in peace.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC's Sponsor A SWL Initiative Update

EI2WRC is pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the first ever Sponsor A SWL initiative is Siobhán Heaney EI2003 from Co. Laois. Many of you may know Siobhán from her TikTok channel, The Irish Outdoor Cook. She has been hosting a live feed of EI2WRC's Tuesday night IRTS news bulletin for the past few months and has also taken over the management of the EI2WRC Twitter account to great effect. Siobhán has very kindly written an introduction about how she got interested in amateur radio. This introduction can be found on the latest news page on searg.ie. EI2WRC has given free club membership to Siobhán as well as paying for her membership of the IRTS to complete the online HAREC course with the NSWLC. In addition, the club will pay her exam fees when she sits the exam. Club members will also provide additional assistance to Siobhán while she's doing the HAREC course. Everyone in EI2WRC wishes Siobhán the very best of luck as she sets out on the road to getting her licence and EI callsign. Information about the group can be found on their website www.searg.ie, via email to [southeasternarg /at/ gmail.com](mailto:southeasternarg/at/gmail.com), Facebook, or at [seargnews](https://twitter.com/seargnews) on Twitter. In addition, please feel free to go along to any of their club meetings or events.

SOTA Ireland-EI/GI SOTA Activity Weekend on 7-9th July

The Summits on the Air (SOTA) Ireland group is organising an activity weekend involving a social gathering on Friday evening July 7th. On-air action is also planned for Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th July coinciding with a similar event in Wales. It will take place in the Wicklow/Dublin mountains based out of the Irish Mountaineering Hut in Glendalough Co. Wicklow. The group is looking forward to contacting SOTA activators, chasers, and all amateurs in other parts of Ireland and abroad. The group also wish to thank John Holland EI3ISB for organising this.

Collection Communication at the Irish National Steam Rally

Stradbally Woodland Railway has formally requested Collective Communication to attend their forthcoming Irish National Steam Rally on the 6th & 7th August. If you fancy a trip out to Stradbally Hall, Stradbally, Co Laois this coming bank holiday weekend, you can enjoy the delights of the National Steam Rally and mix a little amateur radio into your day's fun by dropping by and saying hello to EI3CC. They'll have their mobile radio communication unit there. In addition, a full interactive display will be open so the kids both big and small will have

some electrical activity to keep them amused. If you're not able to attend the steam rally in August, EI3CC hope to be there again in September for the 2023 Railways on the Air event.

European Space Agency AMSAT Challenge

The European Space Agency's (ESA) Fly Your Satellite program in collaboration with the S5Lab in Rome, Italy is challenging ham radio operators to establish communication through the LEDSAT CubeSat digipeater. The prize is a QSL card issued by the ESA Education Office and the LEDSAT team. The satellite digipeater operates on a schedule. It receives packets on 435.310MHz and transmits messages on 435.190MHz. This challenge runs until July 30th so you have plenty of time to give it a go. Further information may be found at www.s5lab.space and via their social media channels.

Contests and Events

Round 7 of the monthly FT8 activity contest on the 2-meter band will take place on Wednesday July 7th from 17:00 to 21:00 UTC. This is a part of a series of monthly contests to help promote activity on the VHF and UHF bands. The contests run on 2m every first Wednesday, on 70cm for the second Wednesday, and on 23cm for the third Wednesday of each month. Further information may be found at www.ft8activity.eu

The HF bands will be very busy next weekend with two major contests taking place at the same time. The IARU HF Championship is a 24-hour worldwide contest held on the second full weekend of July every year. The ARRL manages this contest on behalf of the IARU. Multipliers include ITU Zones and IARU member society headquarter stations, which will be very much in demand. The 2023 contest will be held on July 8th and 9th, from 1200 UTC Saturday to 1159 UTC Sunday. It is a CW & phone contest using the six contest bands from 160m to 10m. The exchange is a signal report and ITU zone except for headquarters stations operated by an IARU national society which send the abbreviation for their society instead of the zone. The IRTS HQ station call sign will be EI0HQ.

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) is an on-site ham radio competition held every four years. WRTC 2022 was postponed to 2023 and is scheduled to take place next weekend on July 8th and 9th also. It will run concurrently with the IARU HF contest from 12:00 UTC on Saturday until 11:59 UTC on Sunday next. However, WRTC contest activity will be limited to the 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, and 10m bands. Unlike most on-the-air competitions, all stations are required to use identical antennas from the same geographic region meaning that it become more of a test of operating abilities between teams. The IRTS HQ Station callsign EI0HQ will be used this year. If you are interested in taking part, please contact contest manager Mark EI6JK at 087 673 8356 or by email at ei6jk@hotmail.com. Mark is planning to have a station covering every band and mode for the contest. All EI stations taking part will be using the DX-Log software and will be networked.

Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam@at/irts.dot.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

